



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MCTC'S First Therapeutic Community Inmates to Graduate Wednesday, October 25 in Hagerstown

TOWSON, MD (October 23, 2006)---The first inmates to participate in a special therapeutic drug treatment program behind bars will graduate from the Maryland Correctional Training Center in Hagerstown on Wednesday, October 25 at 10 a.m.

The therapeutic community program, run by Gaudenzia, features inmates who live in a separate housing area and adhere to a highly structured organizational lifestyle. Counselors stay on-site, and even the custody staff---the correctional officers assigned to the unit---have special training. Seventeen inmates will graduate Wednesday, in a ceremony featuring a number of special speakers. Gaudenzia also runs programs at several other Maryland prisons.

The programs fit in with the Department's RESTART philosophy. RESTART is the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services effort to add thousands of treatment, education, vocational training, and other slots for inmates in a long-term effort to reduce recidivism and provide desperately-needed idle time reduction in prison. Currently, RESTART is funded and operational only at MCTC and at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women in Jessup.

MCTC, the pilot RESTART site for male inmates, is a medium-security institution housing approximately 2,730 inmates. It is one of three state prisons on Roxbury Road south of Hagerstown operated by the Maryland Division of Correction.

WHAT: First graduation of RESTART therapeutic treatment community inmates
WHEN: Wednesday, October 25 at 10 a.m.
WHERE: Maryland Correctional Training Center, Roxbury Road near Hagerstown

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